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Assignment 3

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Download the python codes from

https://github.com/tanayyadav28/Assignments/blob/main/Assignment%203/code/assignment3.py

and latex-tikz codes from

https://github.com/tanayyadav28/Assignments/blob/main/Assignment%203/assignment3.tex

1 Problem

(GATE EC, Q. 25) A fair coin is tossed till a head appears for the first time. The probability that the number of requried tosses is odd,is

(A)
$$\frac{1}{3}$$

(B)
$$\frac{1}{2}$$

(C)
$$\frac{2}{3}$$

(D)
$$\frac{3}{4}$$

2 Solution

Let $Y \in \mathbb{N}$ denote the number of times the experiment is performed. Y = k represents k - 1 failures before getting 1 success. $p = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\therefore p_Y k = (1 - p)^k \times p \qquad k \in \mathbb{N}$$

For getting first success on an odd try, k = 2n+1. Let X be the Bernoulli Random Variable $X \sim B(1,0)$. X = 1 denotes the outcome that odd number of tries are required to get the first head, X = 0 denotes all other outcomes.

$$\Pr(X=1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_Y(2n+1)$$
 (2.0.1)

$$\Pr(X=1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1-p)^{(2n+1)-1} \times p \qquad (2.0.2)$$

$$\Pr(X = 1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n} \times \frac{1}{2}$$
 (2.0.3)

$$\Pr(X=1) = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{4}} \tag{2.0.4}$$

$$\therefore \Pr(X=1) = \frac{2}{3}$$
 (2.0.5)

Hence, the correct option is (C).

